(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Fifth Pay Commission asked to defer report" appearing in the Observer dated November 22, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government employees have started agitation for earlier finalisation of the report;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(e) whether any provision has been made in this year's budget for Fifth Pay Commission Report; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have not desired the Commission to defer the report.

(c) The Government Employees National Confedration staged a Relay Dharna before Commission's office from 26th-29th November, '96 for early submission of the report by the Commission.

(d) The Commission has informed that it is likely to submit its report soon.

(e) and (f) A provision of Rs. 4000 crores in addition to Rs. 1000 crores for Railway employees exists in BE 1996-97 for this purpose.

Review of National Action Plan for Tourism

2587. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Action Plan for Tourism announced in May, 1992 has since been reviewed to find out the shortcomings in the target and to attract more tourists in this sub continent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any realistic plan has been prepared taking into account the ground realities and to involve the private sector investments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to meet the target to five million tourists by turn by the Century?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (e) The National Action Plan for Tourism, stipulated a target of *5 million* tourist arrivals within five years from 1992.

It was reviewed subsequently and found that the target could not be achieved before the turn of the century as it involved large scale investments in infrastructure both by the Government and the private sector. The targets were also reviewed by the Working Group on Tourism for the Ninth Five Year Plan and projected *3.12 million* tourist arrivals by 2000 AD as reasonable unless extra efforts were made to mobilise resources for infrastructure development to achieve the *5 million* target. The Department of Tourism has prepared a National Strategy for the Development of Tourism enlisting the investments and activities to be taken up by different Departments of Government of India, State Governments, Financial Institutions and the Private Sector. The notional estimates given in the strategy paper stipulate a total investment of Rs. 48,061 crores by various agencies including private sector. The investments required to be made by various Departments of Government of Indian amount to Rs. 25,011 crores including Rs. 4861 crores by the Department of Tourism during Ninth Plan period, State Governments Rs. 4,100 crores and financial institutions and the private Sector Rs. 18,950 crores.